

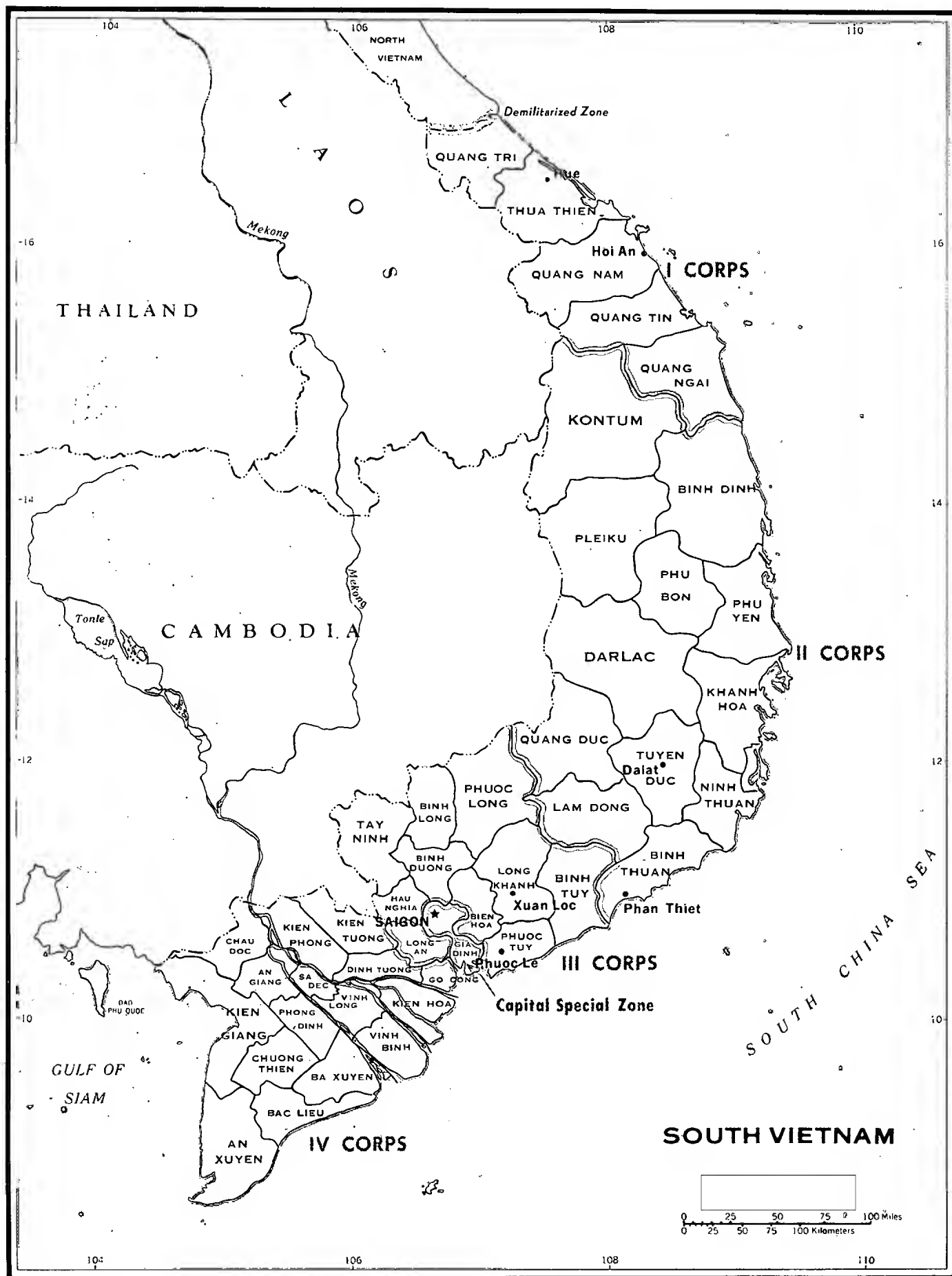


The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 3 February 1968



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DAILY BRIEF
3 FEBRUARY 1968

1. South Vietnam
(as of 5:30 AM
EST)

New attacks were launched during the night against two provincial capitals--Xuan Loc and Phuoc Le--east of Saigon. Heavy fighting is reported in both cities as well as in the delta area where other provincial and district capitals are still under attack.

To the north, fighting seems to be slacking off except for Hue where North Vietnamese regulars continue to offer stiff resistance. Isolated groups of enemy troops are still causing trouble in other cities.

Saigon has been relatively quiet overnight. There are conflicting reports on what the Communists plan next for the capital. Some Viet Cong have been sighted pulling out of the city; prisoners, on the other hand, claim that another attack is planned.

Thieu has shown a marked degree of confidence, but the effectiveness of the government is being sorely taxed. Prime Minister Loc, for example, has taken no initiatives in the past four days.

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There also are indications that a lack of coordination is hampering the government.

2. Korea

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There has been no comment from Pyongyang on the Panmunjom meetings nor on the President's press conference.

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3. Iran -
Saudi Arabia

The Iranians have released the ARAMCO drilling rig and tension is easing. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] No dates for a discussion have been set, but a meeting of the two monarchs might go far toward removing the problems caused by the machinations of minor officials on both sides.

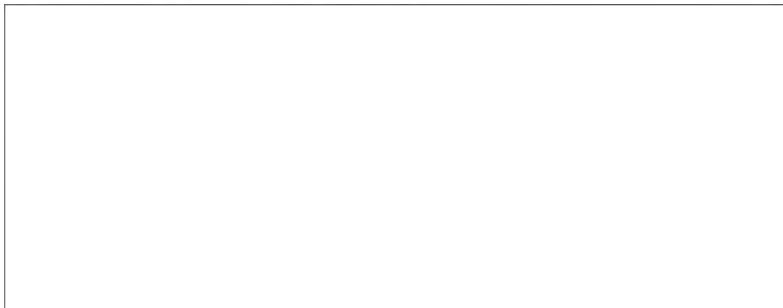
The ARAMCO barge is being towed out of the disputed area.

4. United Kingdom

Wilson and the Labor Party have slipped further in public opinion polls. A week after the announcement of spending cuts, one showed the Tory lead at 18 per cent.

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5. Guatemala



6. India



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7. Jordan

A general loosening of authority seems evident throughout the government.

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Senior army officers are criticizing the King's ties with the West; both the British and American ambassadors note an increase in anti-American sentiment.

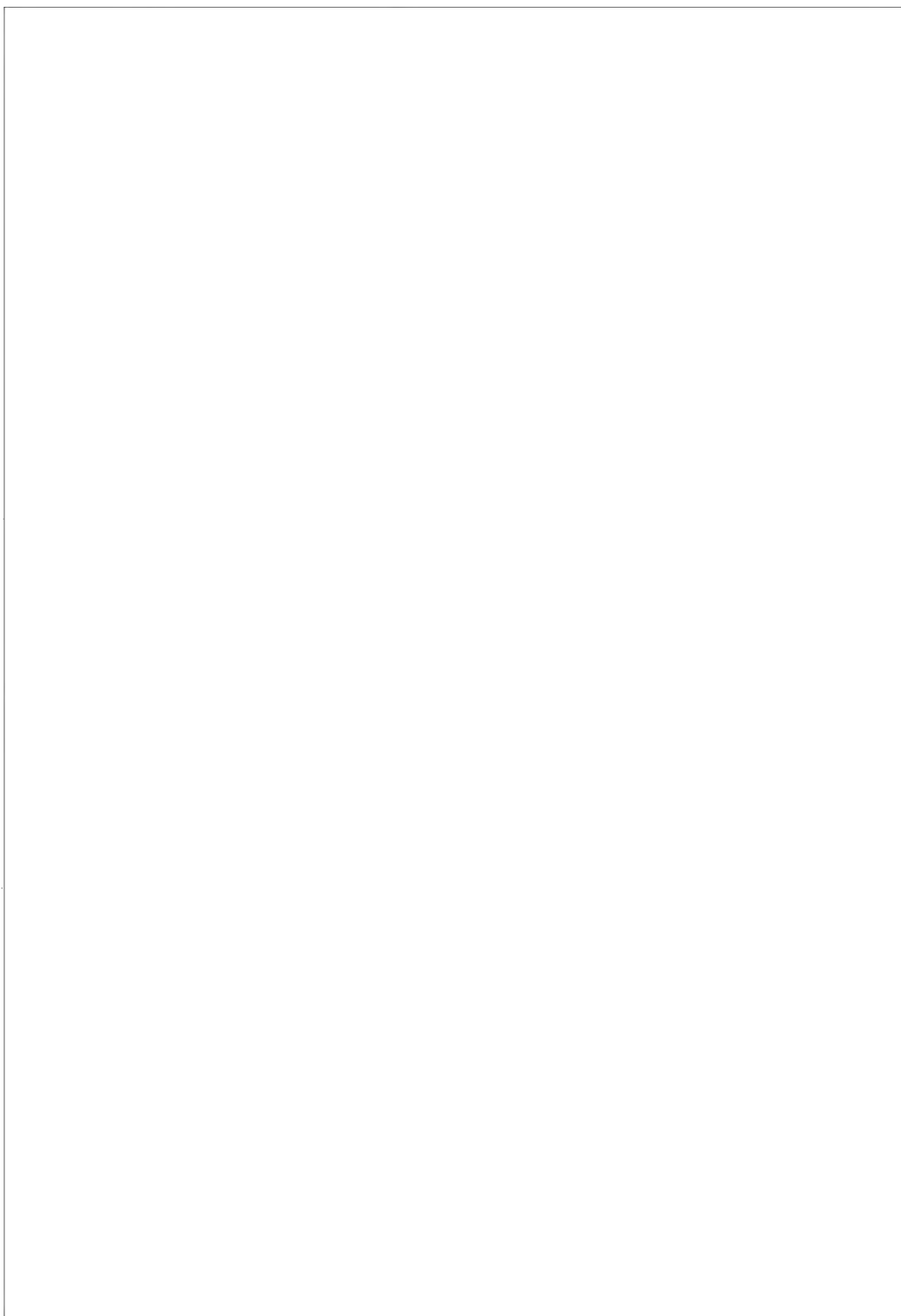
There are no signs that an opposition group has coalesced, however, and the King's personal position is probably not yet in jeopardy.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



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3 February 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Soviet Petroleum Deliveries Up: During December and January, deliveries of Soviet petroleum to North Vietnam ran about 50 percent higher than the monthly average for 1967. [REDACTED]

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There may be explanations for the sharp increase in petroleum deliveries other than an intention to intensify the war effort. For example, a buildup of stocks would be expected if the North Vietnamese were growing more concerned about the possibilities of a US closure of the Port of Haiphong. However, the current flow of POL is a sudden shift from normal, and is well above the calculated monthly consumption requirement of about 20,000 tons.

* * *

Flight to Hanoi Cancelled: [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] the situation in Saigon has caused the cancellation of a regularly scheduled International Control Commission flight from Saigon to Hanoi on 2 February. Although it is possible that this announcement is prompted only by a desire to demonstrate the effectiveness of current Viet Cong military activity in the Saigon area, Hanoi does have a special interest in this particular flight. It was scheduled to carry the two Americans to Hanoi to arrange the release of three American prisoners. Hanoi therefore may want to publicize the cancellation in order to explain any resulting delay in the release of the prisoners.

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES TOWARD THE WAR

More on Dr. Spock: Hanoi is continuing to give considerable propaganda coverage to the indictment and antiwar activities of Dr. Spock and his associates. In a broadcast on 1 February, Hanoi reported that 5,000 New Yorkers had attended a rally at which Spock declared that he was not guilty of the charges against him because he was against the "illegal war which the US is imposing on the Vietnamese people." He is quoted as saying that his group will continue to struggle for stopping the "senseless policy which is bringing suffering to Vietnam and dishonor to America." The same broadcast also reported rallies supporting Spock elsewhere in New York and in Boston.

* * *

Hanoi on the US War Effort: In its first broadcast to American forces in South Vietnam since the Tet offensive began, Hanoi on Thursday recounted the numerous "victories" scored by the "Liberation Armed Forces." It claimed that General Westmoreland did not know how to cope with the unpredictable attacks of these forces and alleged that the Saigon government, "described as stable by Johnson," cannot keep security in many towns, even in the outskirts of Saigon. The broadcast further alleged that the Saigon government, which was "cooked up by Washington," does not represent the South Vietnamese people and is hated by them. It then asked why US soldiers should die to keep such a "hateful government on the backs of the South Vietnamese people, just because it is a product of the White House."

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